KPMG 2024 Pre-Budget Survey Report

October 2023

Foreword

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The tightening of global financial conditions coupled with local challenges have had a significant negative impact on our economy. Despite the challenges, government is implementing policies and programmes to restore macro-economic stability. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected the global real GDP growth to contract to 3% in 2023, from 3.5% in 2022. Due to sub-Saharan Africa's high susceptibility to external shocks, the IMF regional economic outlook published in October projects the region's real GDP growth to decline to 3.3% in 2023, from 4.0% in 2022.

The above conditions have prolonged an acute economic crisis which began in 2022. By mid-year 2023, the Government had achieved significant milestones, including the successful completion of the initial phase of the domestic debt exchange programme (DDEP) and receipt of the first tranche of the US$3 billion Extended Credit Facility. Concurrently, progress continues with the second phase of the DDEP, and preparations for external debt restructuring are in progress. The results of these Government actions are beginning to show in the marginal stability in the economy. In particular, provisional data released by the Bank of Ghana reveals that Ghana's economy grew by 3.2% in the second quarter of 2023, down from 3.5% in the same period last year. Nonetheless the headwinds of economic difficulties are still strong with inflation marginally below 40% and stable economic recovery may be achieved beyond 2023.

Each year, KPMG surveys respondents from businesses across several industries to gather insights on the impact of government policies on business performance. In addition, the insights serve as input in shaping the formulation of the national budget. In partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) this year, we obtained responses from businesses across Financial Services, Energy and Natural Resources, Telecommunications, Media and Technology, Consumer Goods and Industrial Markets, Hotels and Hospitality, etc.

This report comes at a time when the Ghanaian economy is recovering from severe economic crisis. Businesses, households and individuals are eagerly anticipating the further direction of the Government's policy in bringing faster growth and economic stability in particular, in 2024 and beyond.

Results from the survey revealed that currency depreciation, high inflation, interest rates, and the tax environment have had significant negative impacts on business performance in 2023. These effects have been amplified by severe restrictions in access to credit, difficulties in retaining skilled labour, power supply constraints, and supply chain disruptions. Respondents, therefore, recommend a review of a gamut of taxes including e-levy, import levies, petroleum levy, and growth and sustainability levy in the 2024 budget. In addition, respondents advocate for fiscal policies that are focused on investment in the productive sectors including agriculture, support to manufacturing and export sectors, continuing with digitalisation aimed at widening of the tax net, a review of the free Senior High School (SHS) policy and expenditure rationalization.

Respondents understand the significance of SDGs, emphasizing No Poverty, Good Health and Wellbeing, and Decent Work and Economic Growth as the top 3 SDGs for their businesses.

Respondents are advocating for dedicated climate financing funds. The survey highlights a growing awareness of ESG with 76% of respondents expressing interest in evaluating the Government spending and investments using ESG standards. These insights illuminate the evolving landscape of sustainability in Ghana's economic framework.

Overall, the findings highlight that the 2024 budget should prioritize policies that promote inclusive green growth by strengthening local businesses and promoting exports through industrialization, mechanisation of agriculture to promote food security and infrastructure development. We hope the insights from the survey will help Government in their deliberations and provide valuable contributions in the lead-up to the 2024 Budget.

Angela Lusigi

Resident Representative

UNDP Ghana

UNDP contribution

Ghana's economic progress is widely acclaimed as one of Africa's best performing countries that achieved lower MIC status in 2007. Impressive gains in poverty reduction and human development at national level often masks inequality and high levels of multidimensional poverty at disaggregated level. A slow recovery from COVID-19 pandemic and external shocks is exacerbating the impact of the current economic crisis characterized by high inflation, depreciation, unsustainable debt and shrinking fiscal space. The sharp increase in the cost of living is a challenge for the business community.

The national budget remains a key national policy document for the implementation of various policy reforms and other policy measures to address economic and fiscal imbalances and achieve annual and multi-year objectives. In this regard, the preparation of the 2024 budget is an opportunity to galvanize participation by public and private actors who will affect and are affected by policies in the budget.

UNDP is delighted to partner with KPMG to create a platform that allows the private sector to share their views in order to contribute to shaping the development agenda through the national budget preparation process. Our collaboration helps to provide analysis, evidence and policy options as proposed by the private sector to the Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Finance, during the preparation of the national budget and economic policy.

We believe that our work with the private sector helps to advance the implementation of the SDGs by promoting inclusive markets and entrepreneurship development to transform the way the economy works for people for more equitable and sustainable development. In Ghana, although micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play a significant role in production and job creation, they are often left behind in critical policy discussions. This budget preparation initiative is a key stepping stone to enhancing the participation of small businesses and includes the views of MSMEs.

The pre-budget survey carried out in partnership with KPMG has assessed budget expectations of corporate Ghana as well as expectations for the private sector's contribution for the implementation of the SDGs including identifying priority SDGs for the private sector.

Ghana's renewed commitment to the SDGs amidst the global polycrisis from the recently concluded SDGs Summit is a pathway to prosperity, and an opportunity for Ghana to prioritize overall development as it focuses on macroeconomic stability. Evidence suggests that ***economic growth is an enabler for the SDGs in the short term and over time the SDG agenda itself becomes a catalyst for inclusive economic growth.***

The recently concluded national SDGs prioritization process has revealed a high level of commitment to interrelated SDG targets related to effective, accountable and transparent institutions; full employment and decent work with equal pay; inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning; access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all; and improvement in energy efficiency. These are in line with the private sector prioritization of SDGs related to Poverty; Good Health and Wellbeing; and Decent Work and Economic Growth. The fact that the private sector is proposing for the budget for 2024 to prioritise Good health and wellbeing; Quality education; and No poverty is a strong indication of the convergence in priority SDGs to turn around the economic situation.

UNDP will continue to work with both the government and the private sector, to support the implementation of a comprehensive SDGs plan. We will build on the pre-budget survey and analysis exercise to provide evidence on the impact of the national budget on the business community and to work with all stakeholders to address the concerns of small businesses through the budget process. The collaboration will also bring to the fore emerging issues such as Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) and how they align to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We look forward to continue working with KPMG in the review of the outcomes of the 2024 budget and to continue to provide evidence from the private sector to shape the preparation of subsequent national budgets.

Executive Summary

The objective of this pre-budget survey is to solicit the views of respondents from businesses across several industries on the impact of existing policies on their businesses and to provide relevant feedback to the Government through the Ministry of Finance on the key insights to be considered for the upcoming budget and subsequent budget cycles.

The report is structured into three thematic areas:

(1) Macroeconomic snapshot

(2) Survey Approach & Methodology

(3) Survey results, findings and key insights

The following is a snapshot of the key findings from the survey:

- **Economic Factors**: Respondents were asked to indicate the macroeconomic factors and other economic challenges that have adversely impacted business operations in 2023. A significant number of respondents indicated that Cedi depreciation (57%), high inflation (56%), and rising interest rates (46%) have had significant impacts on their operating performance. Respondents also expounded upon the multifaceted challenges they currently face, including power supply constraints, restricted access to financial resources, difficulties in retaining skilled labour, and supply chain disruptions.

- **Fiscal Policies**: Over the years, government has deployed several fiscal policy measures to mobilise revenue. Respondents of the survey felt the current tax environment is adversely impacting their businesses. They have identified several taxes, including the e-levy (76%), COVID-19 levy (68%), import tariffs (68%), petroleum levy (62%), and growth and sustainability levy (51%), as areas where modifications could potentially alleviate the burdens faced by businesses. Respondents have also proffered the following top three recommendations, aimed at augmenting tax revenues and fostering fiscal savings:

- an imperative broadening of the tax base;
- rationalisation of Government expenditures;
- and a comprehensive review of some of the Government's flagship programmes such as the free SHS.

- **Top Policy Initiatives:** Respondents were requested to indicate policy initiatives that the 2024 Government budget should prioritise. A significant number (30% - 50%) believe that the 2024 budget should prioritise policies that promote local businesses and export through industrialisation, agriculture development, and infrastructure development.

- **SDGs Integration into Budget Process:** Businesses in Ghana recognise the importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly No Poverty, Good Health and Wellbeing, and Decent Work and Economic Growth, in shaping their operations. These goals underscores the interdependence of economic prosperity, a healthy and productive workforce, and a stable business environment. In the 2024 budget priorities, Quality Education, Good Health and Well-being, and No Poverty are identified as the top three SDGs to be prioritised. Furthermore, a majority of respondents (86%) support for Government incorporation of SDGs into the budget formulation. This reflects a growing demand for SDG-focused governance and resource allocation strategies

- **Growing Awareness of ESG:** The survey reveals a growing awareness of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) among respondents, with 76% expressing interest in evaluating government expenditure and investment decisions using ESG criteria. This reflects an increasing recognition of the importance of ESG considerations in shaping public policies and resource allocation, indicating a need for the Government to consider these factors in decision-making. Businesses in Ghana emphasize the importance of human resource development, water supply, raw materials, and affordable energy, indicating these as prime areas of concern for sustainable growth.

- **'Galamsey' and Climate Financing:** It is evident that illegal mining continues to pose a significant threat to the country's natural resource and environmental sustainability, with approximately 50% of respondents expressing dissatisfaction with the Government's efforts to combat the menace. Businesses in Ghana highlight the importance of dedicated funds for climate financing initiatives, with 61% of respondents emphasizing their support. This demonstrates a clear demand for Government support in this area.

Executive Summary

Our proposed policy recommendations

Fiscal policies

The survey revealed that businesses and individuals are seeking a review of some tax laws including the COVID-19 levy, petroleum levy, import duties, and growth and sustainability levy. We recommend a broad-based review of these tax policies. Abolishing some of these taxes or lowering the tax rates may initially reduce tax revenue, but are likely to positively impact consumption and expenditure and thus, ultimately enhancing tax revenue.

Review of Free SHS

The Free SHS programme has effectively boosted secondary school enrolment and would create a skilled workforce. However, the financial burden on the Government is substantial. We suggest revising the policy to permit financially able parents to contribute to the cost of SHS education while ensuring continued free access for needy students.

Structuring of the power sector

Power supply emerged as a significant challenge. We recommend that the Government continue to strengthen structural reforms in the power sector to ensure stable and reliable supply, reduce losses, and enhance overall efficiency. Such reforms should prioritise access to renewable energy in the energy mix. A robust power sector is crucial for sustainable industrialisation, infrastructure expansion, and socioeconomic development.

Business and Regulatory Reforms

There is the need for the Government to continue with digitisation and simplification of the process for business registration and obtaining licenses. Additionally, the Government should establish a revolving sustainable and affordable funding for MSMEs. The Government should also expand programmes that incentivise banks to fund MSMEs through risk-sharing.

Macroeconomic Snapshot

Interest Rates & Price Stability

The passthrough effect of currency depreciation on inflation, with an inflation rate of 40.1% in August 2023, up from 33.9% last year, has led to a 300 basis points increase in the monetary policy rate to 30%, causing an increase in the average lending rate to 37.8% in August 2023 compared to 28% in August 2022. These have amplified the cost of living and doing business in the country, significantly impacting business and consumer confidence.

Fiscal Performance

The fiscal deficit for 2023 has been revised to 6.4%, still in excess of the 5% deficit threshold set by rules of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982). Concerns about fiscal sustainability raises uncertainty about the fiscal landscape in 2024 regarding revenue mobilization. Also, businesses and experts are curious about the mechanisms the Government seek to improve expenditure rationalization.

GDP Growth

Real GDP growth for the first half of 2023 averaged 3.25%. Overall, GDP growth rate for the year has been revised to 1.5%. The expected slowdown reflects the challenging conditions businesses and consumers are facing in the year, including reduced business investments, tighter profit margins, limited job opportunities, and increased inflation eroding consumer purchasing power.

	2022 Revised Targets	2022 Outturn	2023 Revised Targets	2023 End of March Outturn	2023 End of June Outturn
Overall GDP Growth Rate	3.7%	3.1%	1.5%	3.3%	3.2%
End Period Inflation Rate	28.5%	54.1%	31.3%	45.0%	38.1%**
Fiscal Deficit (% of GDP)	6.6%	10.7%	6.4%	2.1%	2.8%

*** As at September 2023.*

Source: Mid-Year Budget Statement 2023; MoF 2023, BoG Summary of Economic Data – September 2023

Business' Sensitivity to the Economic Cycle

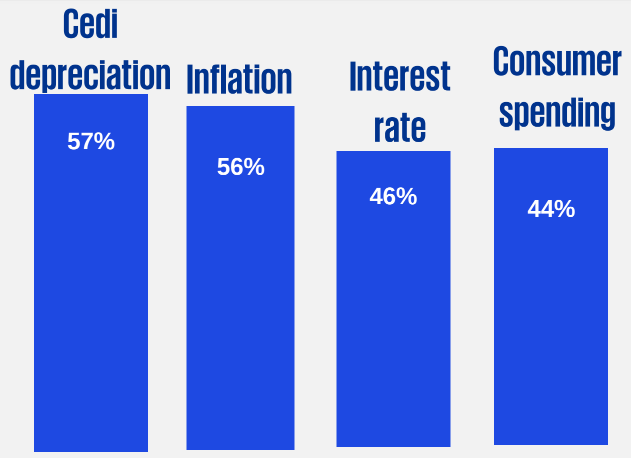
Macroeconomic indicators that have significantly impacted business performance in 2023

The surveyed respondents were asked to identify the relevant macroeconomic indicators that have impacted their operations and also proffer which aspects of their operations have been adversely affected by the evolution of these indicators in 2023.

56% and **57%** of respondents indicated **inflation** and **Cedi depreciation** respectively as economic variables with the most significant impact on businesses in 2023, down from 67% - 77% in 2022.

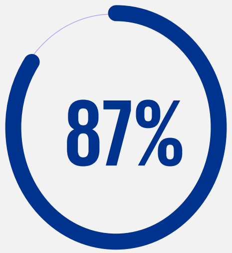
44% and **46%** identify **consumer spending** and **interest rates** respectively as factors exhibiting the next biggest impacts on businesses, down from 63% in 2022.

Majority (**between 63% to 87%**) of the respondents reveal that these significant macro factors have adversely impacted their revenues, costs, and profitability.



High impact macro factors

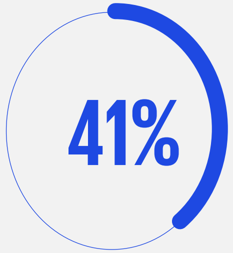
Each macro factor/indicator was responded to independently



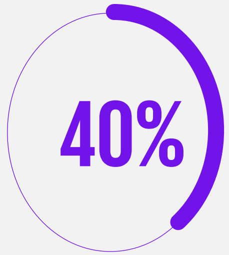
agree that the economic indicators have negatively impacted **Cost of Operations** of businesses

indicate that the development in economic indicators have adversely affected business **Revenue**.

report a high negative impact of the economic indicators on **Profit**



reveal that the development in economic indicators have affected **Employee Retention**.



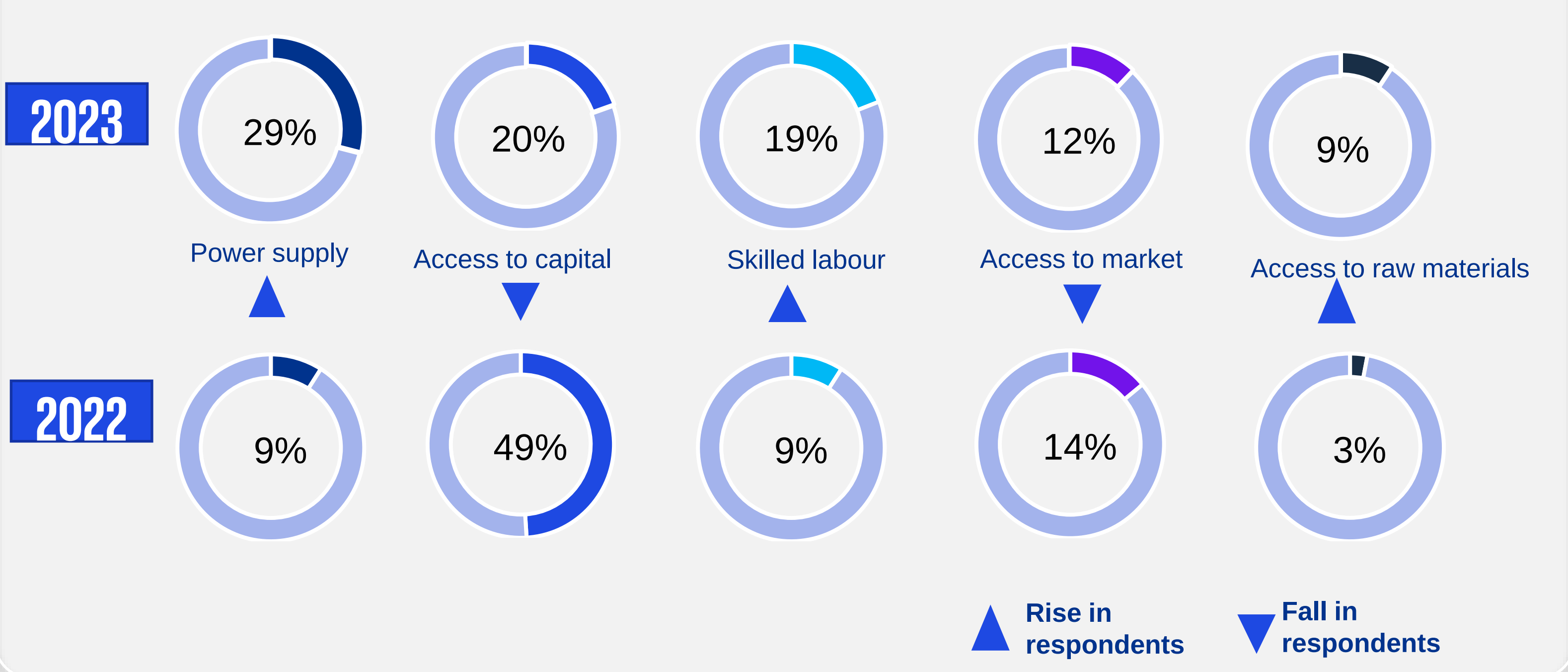
indicate that the development in economic indicators have had a moderate impact on the **quality of goods/service**.

Economic Challenges Impacting Businesses

Notable challenges experienced in 2023

- Respondents were asked to indicate the economic challenges that have impacted business operations in 2023.
- Respondents cited access to a reliable power supply and skilled labour as a growing difficulty. Respondents also averred that access to finance remains a significant challenge.

Key Challenges



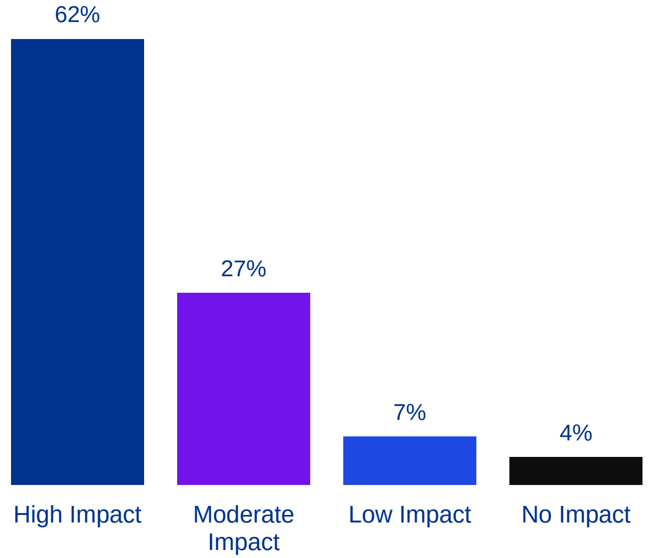
The Tax Environment

Taxation impact on businesses and desired reforms

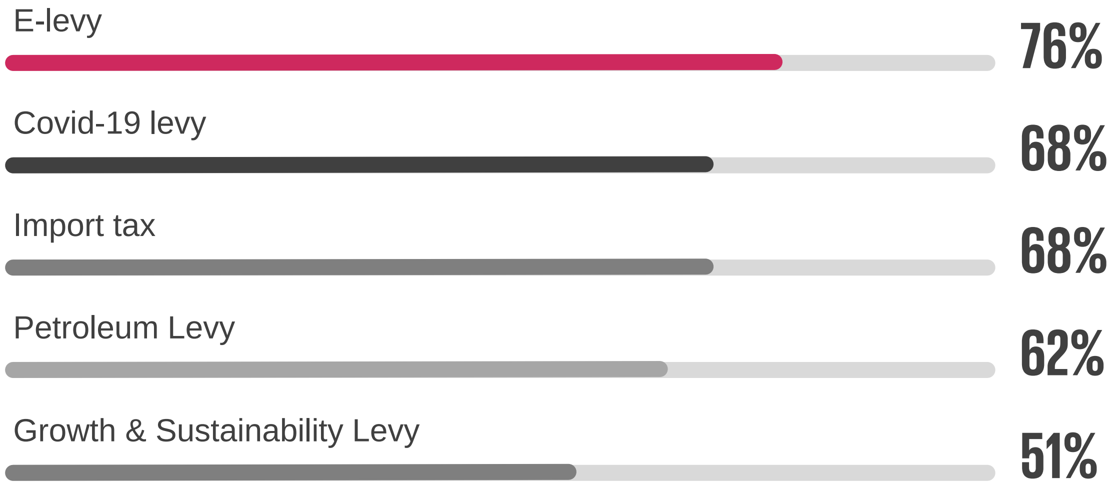
In order to ramp up revenue mobilisation through taxes, the Government introduced several taxes and tax reforms in the 2022 and 2023 fiscal years. Respondents indicated that the current taxation environment has negatively affected their operations and have signalled the need for the Government to review the e-levy, COVID – 19 levy, import levies, Petroleum levy, and Growth and Sustainability levy in their top 5 review considerations.

Impact of taxes

89% reported an adverse impact of taxes on their operations.



Percentage of respondents requiring Government to review the following fiscal policies.



Creating an Enabling Environment for MSMEs

- The Government, in collaboration with development partners have initiated programmes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship training and enhancing access to finance.
- Respondents revealed their awareness of the Government's initiatives to improve access to finance, promote access to external markets for MSMEs, promote jobs and skills development, as well as strengthen MSMEs integration into value chains.

Respondents awareness of initiatives to improve the enabling environment for MSMEs

22%	Integration into value chain
25%	Jobs and skills development initiatives
26%	Access to finance
27%	Access to external markets/AfCFTA

Considerations for Government

Our Point of View

- **Businesses are struggling to cope with the current fiscal landscape.** 62% of respondents disclosed that the level of tax burden is suffocating businesses. Top five taxes businesses recommends to be reviewed are the e-levy, COVID -19 levy, import levies, Petroleum levy, and Growth and Sustainability levy. For first half of the year, National Fiscal Stabilisation Levy underperformed in terms of its annual target by 56.7% while COVID-19 Health Levy dropped by 17.8%. E-Levy also missed its target by more than half in the period between January and June this year. The evidence show that business and individuals are looking at government revising some of the tax policies. We believe that reducing tax rates or abolishing some taxes should come with a corresponding rise in aggregate spending, and as spending increases, would ultimately positively impact tax revenues.

- **Not enough power to grow?** Power supply has been identified as the most critical challenge businesses face in 2023. The Government should reinforce structural reforms to the power sector to foster a stable and reliable power supply, minimise losses, and improve the overall efficiency of the service delivery in the sector. The structural reform should focus on enhancing the consumption of renewable energy in the energy mix. A resilient power sector is a backbone for sustainable industrialisation, expansion of infrastructure, and socioeconomic development.

- **Availability of skilled labour– an emerging challenge to reckon with.** 19% of respondents identified availability of skilled labour as a challenge, up from 9% in 2022. Government must prioritise policies for early economic recovery. This can slow down labour migration and encourage some of those who have left to return with new skills to harness the business and socioeconomic growth opportunities of a vibrant economy.

- **Review of flagship programmes – Free SHS**

It is very clear that the Free SHS programme has increased the enrolment rate at the secondary school levels and it is also preparing educated workforce for the future. However, the attendant challenge of funding has been a significant strain on the Government's resources. We propose that, the Government should revise the policy. The policy could be reviewed to allow ability-to-pay Parents to contribute to funding of SHS education while needy students are allowed to continue on the programme on a free basis.

> "Power supply and the current taxation landscape – a critical challenge to businesses"

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Considerations for Government

Our Point of View

Improving access to finance for MSMEs

MSMEs are the mainstay of the Ghanaian economy. However, one of their enduring binding constraints is access to cheap sources of finance as indicated by the survey results. Government is a key actor in improving access to finance for MSMEs to sustain and scale their business. While the Government has implemented a range of interventions dedicated to MSME financing as well as capacity building in financial literacy and business management, the sheer scale of MSME sector means much still remains to be done.

We encourage the Government to accelerate business regulatory reforms to further simplify and reduce the cost and time involved in obtaining business registration, licenses and permits to improve formalisation and make commercial financing more accessible to MSMEs. We propose that the Government establish a revolving and sustainable access to affordable finance for MSMEs. The Government should also consider expanding programmes that incentivise commercial banks to allocate a portion of their funds to MSMEs through risk sharing mechanisms to reduce the risk typically associated with MSME lending.

We further encourage the Government, in collaboration with stakeholders, to accelerate the establishment and operationalisation of a Domestic Credit Rating Agency to allow providers of finance assess the creditworthiness of MSMEs based on the financial credit history to enhance access to credit.

> “Support to MSMEs”

ESG Insights

Insights into ESG awareness, drivers and level of satisfaction with Government actions against 'Galamsey'

❑ Against a backdrop of evolving ESG trends, including the issuance of IFRS S1 and S2 by ISSB in June 2023 and the forthcoming implementation of the Bank of Ghana's Sustainable Banking Principles Guidelines in 2024, businesses recognize the importance of ESG factors and its impact on business and government decisions. The survey sought to understand whether respondents believe ESG criteria should influence government expenditure and investment decisions, main drivers for ESG, satisfaction with Government efforts in curbing illegal mining, and proposals for enhancing the country's ESG ratings.

Businesses response to if ESG criteria should be used to evaluate the expenditure and investment decisions of Government

76% Yes

14% I don't know

10% No

Top 5 main triggers/drivers of ESG in businesses

1. Stakeholder Expectations
2. Risk Management Process
3. Innovation and Competitive Advantage
4. Funding and Investment Opportunities
5. Industry or Sector Trends

50% of the respondents generally expressed **no to low satisfaction** with Government's tackling of the fight against Galamsey

81% of respondents **have at least** made **some adjustments to their business operations** to align with ESG considerations

Top three suggested initiatives to promote ESG in the country

1. Encourage investment in ESG initiatives or technologies through tax incentives
2. Introduce regulations that require companies to disclose ESG related information
3. Increase Public Awareness and education on ESG issues

Suggested initiatives to improve the country's ESG ratings

- **30%** Increase regulatory compliance and enforcement
- **25%** Intensify fight against illegal mining
- **24%** Invest in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure
- **21%** Improve access to sustainable finance and incentives

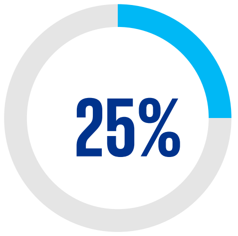
Sustainability Awareness and Climate Financing

The priority accorded to the Carbon Markets Office, and significance of dedicated funds for climate initiatives.

- In pursuit of sustainability and climate financing initiatives, the Government has embarked on various programs and actions. The survey assessed respondents' knowledge of the Carbon Markets Office under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), perception of the Office's priority, and the importance of dedicated funds to support climate financing initiatives.

Knowledge of Carbon Markets Office under (EPA)

There is a low knowledge of carbon markets among MSMEs and private sector; this is further substantiated by the low views on priority for the carbon markets



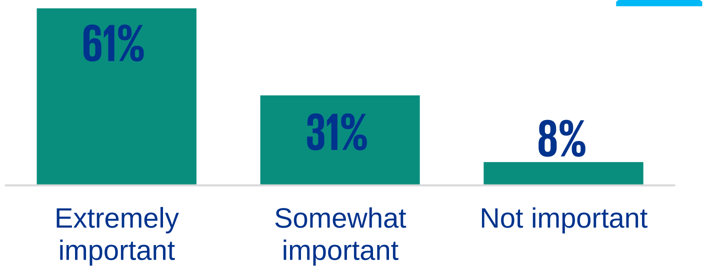
of the respondents indicated **they are aware of the existence of Ghana's Carbon Markets Office**, which operates under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) / Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI),

Priority of Carbon Markets Office

Respondents views of what should be a priority for the Carbon Markets Office operating under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Facilitating emission reduction projects	21%
Monitoring, reporting and verification	18%
Enforcing regulations and maintaining integrity of the carbon markets processes	18%
Certifying and approving methodologies and standards	17%
Enhancing climate finance opportunities	13%
Development of pipeline of eligible carbon market projects	13%

Importance of dedicated funds to support climate financing initiatives



- **61%** of responses indicated that **it is extremely important for Government to establish dedicated funds or financial mechanisms to support carbon financing or climate financing initiatives** because dedicated funds are necessary to incentivise and support climate-friendly projects effectively.
- **31%** of responses indicated that it is **somewhat important** because while dedicated funds can be helpful, other measures may also play a significant role.

Considerations for Government

Our Point of View

- Respondents have underscored the role of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in shaping the economic landscape. Their alignment with SDGs such as No Poverty, Good Health and Wellbeing, Quality Education, and Decent Work and Economic Growth emphasizes the interconnectedness of economic prosperity, a healthy workforce, and a stable business environment.

- In the education sector, enhancing infrastructure and school meals are imperative. In healthcare, while strides have been made through initiatives like the Agenda 111, there's a need for improved medicine availability and health awareness campaigns. Addressing poverty involves multifaceted support, including bolstering the agrarian sector, strengthening small industries, offering microfinance, fostering skill development, and launching job initiatives.

- Government's commendable efforts to incorporate SDGs into budgeting and financing processes have been noted, including initiatives like the National Carbon Credit Framework and the establishment of a sustainability-themed bonds market. To enhance these endeavours, it is recommended that the Government institutionalizes the integration of SDGs into the nation's legal framework and business processes.

- On the ESG front, the survey indicates a growing awareness among businesses, with 81% making significant changes to align with. This heightened awareness necessitates Government's active consideration of ESG criteria in decision-making processes, thereby ensuring sustainable and responsible governance. To strengthen the country's ESG ratings, Government should focus on regulatory compliance, intensifying the fight against illegal mining as it continues to pose a significant threat to the country's environmental sustainability.

- The survey also highlights the importance of a dedicated approach to climate financing initiatives. A majority (61%) of respondents express the view that it is extremely important for Government to establish dedicated funds to support carbon and climate financing initiatives. To address this demand, Government should allocate resources to these funds and communicate their availability, eligibility criteria, and the types of projects that can be funded. Transparency and accountability in fund allocation and management are paramount.

- In conclusion, these insights offer a roadmap for the Government of Ghana to navigate the path towards sustainable growth, strengthen business partnerships, and enhance global competitiveness while ensuring the well-being and prosperity of its citizens

> "Be a Sustaina-Gov"

Appendix 1

Survey Approach & Methodology

Mode of data collection

Online survey instruments were used to gather responses from businesses spanning diverse sectors between 3 August 2023 and 4 September 2023. The questionnaire comprised two sections. The first section evaluated the influence of Government economic policies on businesses, while the second section focused on participants' views regarding Government initiatives related to combating illegal mining and corruption within the context of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Respondents

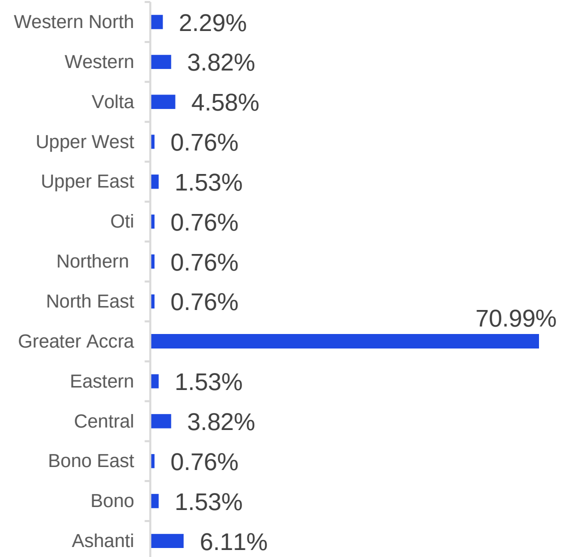
We solicited responses from leading large, small, and medium-seized businesses in Ghana across 10 sectors of the economy and obtained 133 responses.

Data Analytics

Due to the number of variables considered for this research model, data analysis was carried out using KPMG proprietary tools and other analytic tools such as Power BI and IDEA

Demographics - Overview

Regions Represented



Percentage of sector representation

Financial Services	20%	Professional Services	8%
Hospitality Services	2%	Government, Infrastructure and Healthcare Services	13%
Energy and Natural Resources	11%	Consumer and Industrial Markets	30%
Others	7%	Agriculture and Agribusiness	3%

Survey 133 businesses

Organisation Size

Micro (1 – 5 employees) 14%

Small (6 – 30 employees) 29%

Medium (31 – 100 employees) 12%

Above 100 employees 43%

Other 2%

Gender

Organisational function

Board Member/CEO	17%	Production	5%
Finance	37%	Purchasing & Supply Chain	5%
Sales & Marketing	9%	Human Resource	5%
Others	22%		

Appendix 3

Policy Recommendations from Respondents

Proposed initiatives by respondents for Government's consideration in 2024 fiscal year

"
- Reduce corruption
- Reduce Government size
- Improve the performance of the local currency
- Restore confidence in the economy by stabilizing the financial sector and maintaining evidence of fiscal discipline.
- Job creation and investment in technology
"

"
- Expand the Tax net
- Reduce Taxes including duty on importation of raw materials
- Industrialization and agricultural development
- Focus on ID1F and planting for food and jobs
- Reduce inflation and interest rates
"

"
- Review free SHS and school feeding policies
- Complete abandoned healthcare facilities
- Infrastructure and affordable housing.
- Road surface improvement
- Electricity and water for all
"

Appendix 4

SDG Consciousness

Perceptions of SDG awareness, its incorporation into the government budget, and implications for business operations

❑ Amidst ongoing global efforts to advance Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), respondents acknowledge the role of SDGs in fostering national development and have voiced specific recommendations for incorporating them into the upcoming 2024 budget

Top three SDGs businesses think the 2024 budget should focus on

- Goal 3 Good Health and Well-Being
- Goal 4 Quality Education
- Goal 1 No Poverty

Suggestions to incorporate SDGs into budget formulation

Majority of businesses suggested that to incorporate SDGs into the national budget formulation process, Government should:

1. **use the SDGs as the basis of resource allocation,** and
2. **prepare a qualitative report on how the budget contributes to achievement of the SDGs.**

Why respondents want the 2024 budget to focus on the three goals selected

"These areas have a great impact on economic development, the wellbeing of citizens, social transformation and job creation."

"It forms the basis of human existence and will help speed up the achievement of the other SDG goals."

"A hungry population cannot work in happiness, modern living depends heavily on energy and it should be affordable and clean; other infrastructure such as good roads make quick procurement and distribution and easy implementation of innovations"

"The effects of Covid-19 have brought these to the fore. These are issues that require immediate attention from governments especially in Africa"

"To sustain efforts to achieve the desired impact."

Businesses' alignment to the SDGs

85% of respondents indicated that **their businesses are aligned to the SDGs.** Of the 15% unaligned businesses, **86% of them expressed interest to align** their businesses with the SDGs

How businesses are aligned to the SDG

- 24% have integrated the SDGs into their strategy and operations
- 17% have assessed the impact of their business on the SDGs
- 17% have shown their commitment to the SDGs to the public
- 17% have engaged with their employees on the SDGs
- 13% have engaged with their Board on the SDGs
- 12% have engaged with their shareholders on the SDGs

Top three SDGs for businesses

- Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being
- Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 1 – No Poverty

Business contribution to the SDGs

92% of the respondents believe that **their businesses are contributing to the achievement of the SDGs**

Key areas of prime importance to businesses

- Raw materials
- Human resource development
- Affordable energy

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